

# 2006 Census Test Fact Sheet

Issued January 2005

*The 2006 Census Test is one of a series of activities that the U.S. Census Bureau is conducting to evaluate new methods and procedures under consideration for the 2010 Census. One of the proposed sites for the 2006 Census Test is a portion of Travis County, Texas, including parts of the city of Austin and its suburbs.*

## *Travis County, Texas*

*Of the 3,141 counties in the United States, Travis County, with a population of 812,280, is the 56<sup>th</sup> largest. Founded in 1840, it is one of the oldest counties in Texas. It grew by about 40 percent between 1990 and 2000. Austin, the capital of Texas and the fourth largest city in the state, is located in Travis County.*

### **The Census Bureau is testing:**

- ✓ How to improve methods for collecting data from respondents who speak a language other than English, including bilingual questionnaire delivery.
- ✓ How to improve data collection procedures that will enhance overall data quality for people, housing units and group quarters.
- ✓ How effective is the use of hand held computers with Global Positioning System technology for field data collection and support operations.
- ✓ The impact of different replacement questionnaire-delivery strategies.
- ✓ How to improve data collection methods in group quarters, dormitories, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and unconventional housing.

### **How we will count residents for the 2006 Test:**

- ✓ The U.S. Postal Service will deliver questionnaires to addresses in the test site. Respondents will be asked to return the questionnaires by mail. Census workers will visit households to collect information when the Census Bureau does not receive completed questionnaires.

### **Census 2000 mail response rate for Travis County:**

- ✓ The final mail response rate for Travis County in Census 2000 was 67 percent.

### **Pay rates for selected census jobs:**

<u>Positions</u>	<u>Pay Rates</u>
Crew Leader	\$16.00
Enumerator	\$14.50
Clerk	\$11.00

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## Members of Congress who represent this site:

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas  
Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas  
U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, 10th District

## Interesting facts:

- ✓ Fifty-seven percent of Travis County residents changed residences between 1995 and 2000. About 27 percent moved from a different county to Travis.
- ✓ Austin has one of the highest levels of education in the United States and is a leader in the technology field.
- ✓ The University of Texas is the third largest state university in the country.
- ✓ Twenty-nine percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home.

Demographics	Travis County	Test Site	United States
Population, 2000	812,280	463,810	281,421,906
Housing units (HUs), 2000	335,881	185,768	115,904,641
Vacancy rate, 2000	5 percent	4 percent	9 percent
Housing units in multiunit structures, percentage, 2000	40 percent	49 percent	26 percent
Average household size, 2000	2.5 persons	2.5 persons	2.6 persons
Median age, 2000	30	28	35
Percentage of population by race, 2000	White – 68 percent Black – 9 percent Asian – 5 percent Other race – 15 percent Two or more races – 3 percent	57 percent 14 percent 5 percent 21 percent 3 percent	75 percent 12 percent 4 percent 6 percent 2 percent
Percentage of population by Hispanic/Latino origin, 2000	28 percent	38 percent	13 percent
Percentage foreign-born, 2000	15 percent	20 percent	11 percent
Median household income, 1999	\$46,761	NA	\$41,994
Population age 5+ who speak a language other than English at home, 2000	29 percent	37 percent	18 percent
Population age 5+ who speak Spanish at home	22 percent	30 percent	11 percent
Population age 5+ who speak English less than very well	13 percent	18 percent	5 percent
Population in group quarters, 2000	3 percent	4 percent	3 percent
Population in correctional institutions	3,544	3,544	1,976,019
Population in college dormitories	9,143	9,143	2,064,128
Percentage enrolled in college or graduate school	37 percent	14 percent	23 percent
Bachelor's degree or higher, percentage of people age 25+, 2000	41 percent	30 percent	24 percent
Persons per square mile, 2000	821	2,886	80

Source: Census 2000. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sfl.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sfl.pdf) for 100-percent Census 2000 data and [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf) for Census 2000 sample data.

